

A NEW SPECIES OF MYRMOSA (Hymenoptera, Tiphidae)

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One female specimen of the new species described below was received recently for identification following inspection of a shipment of Costa Rican plants by the Foreign Plant Quarantine service at Brownsville, Texas. The specimen was found among the roots of a *Bromelia* (sens. lat.) plant along with several ants of various castes which have been identified by M. R. Smith as *Crematogaster nigripilosa* Mayr, a Central American species.

The question immediately arises as to whether the *Myrmosa* should be considered a species native to Costa Rica or to Texas with the association with the plant occurring after the latter was received at Brownsville. I have tried to obtain additional information as to the shipment, but it is not possible to give a definite locality for the origin of the plant in Costa Rica, nor is it possible to determine at this time whether the bromeliad was an epiphytic or terrestrial species. However, the *Myrmosa* could have become associated with the plant after the latter was received at the inspection station at Brownsville. The association with the *Crematogaster* probably should be regarded as accidental since, so far as is known, species of *Myrmosa* are parasitic in the nests of terri-colous solitary wasps and bees.

In my opinion the type locality should be regarded as Brownsville, Texas, at least until field collected material is available which would disprove such a contention. My opinion is based on the facts that the other known species of the subgenus *Myrmosula* are confined to the Austral and Sonoran regions within the United States, and that association with the plant could have occurred at Brownsville.

***Myrmosa (Myrmosula) peregrinatrix*, new species**

Type. ♀; Brownsville, Texas, March 29, 1946. (Among roots of *Bromelia* sp. from Costa Rica, in association with the ant, *Crematogaster nigripilosa* Mayr). [United States National Museum, Type No. 58044].

Female.—6.0 mm. long. Ferruginous; tip of mandible and a narrow apical band on first three tergites (that of the second widely interrupted medianly), darker; second tergite with a pair of anterolateral, rounded, whitish, integumental spots.

Head shining, clothed with abundant, short, decumbent glittering hairs and scattered, erect longer ones; mandibular lamella emarginate

medianly below, present on basal third of inferior margin; hypostomal tooth as in *parvula* Fox; apical margin of clypeus in frontal view slightly more arched than in *parvula*; antennal tubercles large and prominent, with a strong, oblique dentate crest above; viewed from above the area between antennal tubercles is almost U-shaped, the tubercles separated basally by a distance equal to three-fourths the basal width of a tubercle; front and vertex with small punctures, those of the genae much smaller; punctures above antennae separated by two to four times the width of a puncture, those of middle of front much sparser and those on vertex almost contiguous.

Thorax less shining than head, clothed with abundant, short, decumbent glittering hairs and scattered, erect longer ones; with dense, fine punctures dorsally which are finer than those of front and vertex and separated by the width of one to two punctures; pleura equally finely, but less closely punctured than dorsum.

Abdomen shining, very finely punctate, clothed dorsally with short, abundant erect hairs which are silvery and glittering on the ferruginous and white areas of the first five tergites and brownish on the darker bands, the hairs of the last segment longer, denser and ferruginous; venter, except last sternite, with pale, glittering decumbent hairs and scattered, longer erect ones.

Legs finely punctate, with abundant, short, decumbent glittering pubescence and scattered, longer erect hairs.

Male.—Unknown.

This interesting little species, the fifth known from the female sex in this subgenus,¹ is most closely related to *parvula* Fox from which it is readily distinguished by the crested antennal tubercles, the almost U-shaped area between the antennal tubercles when viewed from above (this area is more shallowly emarginate in *parvula*), the antennal tubercles separated basally by a distance equal to three-fourths the basal width of a tubercle (this distance equal to basal width of a tubercle in *parvula*), the more strongly arched apical margin of the clypeus and the denser pubescence of the entire body. It is readily separated from the other species known from the female sex, *rutilans* (Blake), *exaggerata* Krombein and *pacifica* Mickel, by the more prominent antennal tubercles and the lack of an interantennal elevation.

¹For discussion of other species of *Myrmosa* (*Myrmosula*) see Krombein, K. V. Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 65:456-462, 1940, and Mickel, C. E. Pan-Pacific Ent. 16:132-134, 1940.